

# How Can Christians Deal with Difficult People ?

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As Christians, we all have to deal with difficult people at some point in our lives. These individuals may be condescending, argumentative, belligerent, selfish, flippant, obtuse, or simply rude. Dealing with such people can be a true test of our patience, love, and grace.

However, the Bible provides clear guidance on how we should respond to difficult people. We should strive to model the example set by Jesus, who interacted with many challenging individuals during his time on earth. Rather than displaying harsh superiority or dismissive pride, Jesus showed authority under control. He used rebuke when necessary ([John 8:47](#)), but also remained silent ([John 8:6](#)), asked questions ([Mark 11:28–29](#)), pointed people to Scripture ([Mark 10:2–3](#)), and told stories ([Luke 7:40–42](#)) when dealing with difficult people.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave specific instructions on how to handle difficult people with love and humility: *"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you"* ([Luke 6:27–31](#)). We must never retaliate in kind, but rather "repay evil with blessing" ([1 Peter 3:9](#)).

The book of Proverbs also offers valuable wisdom on dealing with difficult people. It encourages patience ([Proverbs 12:16](#)), peacemaking ([Proverbs 20:3](#)), and love ([Proverbs 10:12](#)). The Proverbs also suggest avoiding certain individuals altogether if possible: *"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered"* ([Proverbs 22:24](#)).

Ultimately, when faced with difficult people, we must guard against pride and instead approach the situation with meekness and love. As the apostle Paul admonished, we should *"not think of [ourselves] more highly than [we] ought"* ([Romans 12:3](#)) and instead show the same love, grace, and mercy that God has shown to us ([Galatians 5:22–23](#)).

By following the biblical principles of patience, love, and grace, we can transform our encounters with difficult people into opportunities to grow in Christlikeness and bear witness to the transformative power of the gospel.

It's important to note that dealing with difficult people is not always easy, and it may require great wisdom and discernment. In some cases, it may be necessary to set boundaries or even remove ourselves from the situation entirely. However, even in these challenging circumstances, we should strive to respond with grace and compassion, remembering that our ultimate goal is to honor God and reflect His love to others.

Additionally, we must be careful not to become the *"difficult people"* ourselves. It's all too easy to fall into the trap of pride, selfishness, or retaliation when faced with difficult individuals. As Christians, we are called to a higher standard and must constantly examine our own hearts and motives to ensure that we are not mirroring the very behaviors we seek to address in others.

Furthermore, it's important to recognize that our response to difficult people is not just about them; it's also about our own spiritual growth and maturity. When we are able to exhibit patience, love, and grace in the face of adversity, we are demonstrating the transformative power of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In this way, our interactions with difficult people can become opportunities for us to reflect the character of Christ and to point others to the hope and redemption that can be found in Him.

In conclusion, the Bible provides clear guidance on how Christians should deal with difficult people. By following the example of Jesus and the wisdom of Scripture, we can navigate these challenging situations with humility, love, and grace, and in doing so, bring glory to God and further His kingdom on earth.

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